

A Bold Bluff

The saloon keepers of Akron, Ohio, threaten to close their places of business for a period of two years unless the restrictions of certain state laws are removed. The Anti Saloon League of Ohio with the cooperation of the temperance people of Akron, has promptly met this bold bluff by a promise to pay half the expenses and finding employment for idle saloon keepers. Now let us see what kind of "stuff" the saloon keepers of Akron are made of. We predict that they will not close, for the simple reason that it would ruin their business. Two years without a saloon in that city will convince the most conservative that the liquor business is a nuisance anywhere, that financially, physically, morally and spiritually, Akron will be infinitely better off without that institution of the devil known in America as saloons. Let the saloon keepers of Akron try their experiment if they dare. We challenge them to do it.

A Reminder

The Disciples or Campbellites are enlisting under the motto, "100,000 souls for Christ during 1899." A minister in that church writes to the editor as follows: "I join the host who have enlisted under your motto, 100,000 souls for Christ. While doing this let us not neglect to teach the 'all things whatsoever I have commanded you' to the thousands now in Christ. In fact this is the surest route to the desired end. The church is the light of the world individually and collectively, and a faithful or consecrated church is a power in winning men and women to Christ." This is sound gospel advice. We would respectively refer our brother to the thirteenth of John as containing at least one of the "Whatsoever things I have commanded you."

Secretary's Report for January

The report of the secretary of the National Mission Board for the month of January which appears in this issue is certainly a very encouraging one. It is the first report of the year, and for the first month of the year 1899. If that is the direction to which the index finger of missions points for this year of grace then we have every reason to thank God and take courage. It is the largest amount ever reported by the Brethren church for any one month. The amount is almost \$500, and while we feel encouraged because of this liberal contribution to the cause of missions, it is not any more than the Brethren church ought to give for that purpose, and not as much. Without a great deal of sacrifice we can easily give \$1,000 per month. Think of what that would mean. Within the next twelve months it would mean a church in Chicago, in Washington, and in Dayton, with several missions in other large cities, a

respectable sum with which to open the foreign work, and above all it would mean new life in all the churches throughout the brotherhood. At the present the National Board is out of debt, the salaries of our missionaries are paid, so are the rents, and there remains some money in the treasury. This is as it ought to be, and we urge upon all our churches to make every lawful effort to keep up this record throughout the year. We can do it, and because we can, we are under obligations to do it. Of Mary of old it was said, "She hath done what she could." Will ever as much be said of us? There is the limit of human duty, having done what you can. You will never have discharged your full duty until of you it can be said as it was of Mary, "She hath done what she could."

Who in the Brethren church is any the poorer for having given part of that \$500? Are there any? Let us hear from them. Not any poorer in that which can be calculated by human mathematics, yet infinitely richer in that which can not be measured by the mathematics of time. Let us keep up the record of \$500 per month for the entire year, and if possible increase that sum. The leaven of the missionary spirit is at work among us, and we have the promise that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. May this spirit touch, not only touch, but fill the hearts of every member of the church.

The Poor Lodged

The report of New York City's lodging house for the year 1898 shows that 79,985 homeless persons received a night's lodging and a breakfast in the morning during the year; 73,422 were men, 5,776 women and 787 were children. The great majority of the inmates were citizens of the United States. The next highest number were Irish, Germans following, and then English. Nearly every nationality was represented, but there were no Chinamen. This is but a small tithe of the charities being distributed in our large cities where many of us imagine everything is going the wrong way. Gradually the Spirit of the Christ of God is doing its work even among the wicked in high places.

Make Them Better

The Rev. Dr. Rainsford of New York, says that as we can not drive out the liquor saloons, "the only thing we can do is to make them better." Now why is it that this brilliant idea has never occurred to anyone before? Why certainly, make them better. Establish a system of moral lectures in each bar room. Sanctify them. Enroll our frugal rummies among the saints. Hand over the counter a verse of scripture with each glass of rum, or a Sunday School tract. Make it a rule for each beer guzzler to say grace over his foaming glass. Take up a

liberal collection every day for the heathen, or for the society for the Suppression of Vice.

It is a most capital notion, this making the saloon better. There is evidently room for improvement. Why doesn't Dr. Rainsford give us a plan at once by which so desirable a result can be accomplished? We await it with great impatience. Here we are, all of us good people, standing upon the beautiful hills of salvation, while deep down in the abyss of damnation is the saloon. Shall we go down, Dr. Rainsford, hitch on to it and pull it up? Will it be much of a job? We can plainly see that the devil has a grip on it from the under side, but this isn't the greatest difficulty in sight. The saloon itself doesn't want to be made better. Endeavor to pull it up into respectability, and it would hold on to hell with teeth and toe nails. But the distinguished clergymen evidently thinks that the saloon can be reformed. We suppose that even after it is reformed it will continue to sell intoxicating drinks, continue to debauch the bodies and souls of men, continue to beggar helpless women and children, continue to sow misery, ruin, vice and crime broadcast in the community. Now when the reformed saloon continues to do all these nice things, what ought we to do with it? The proposition is so interesting, and sensible. Why not go back just a little further and get to the far end of the business by reforming the devil? Doubtless Dr. Rainsford can tell us how it can be done.

The Statistics of Self Indulgence

Great Britain spends on tobacco and pipes 14,000,000 pounds sterling annually, or about seventy millions dollars. How vast are the statistics of self indulgence. This tobacco item, enormous as it seems, and really is, makes but a fraction of the whole. Put together the expense of all other forms of self indulgence; the drink habit, the gluttony habit, the extravagant dress habit, the millions spent in gaudy ornamentation, and you would not be able to comprehend the stupendous total. Now suppose all this money was saved and applied to the betterment of the poor, or to the propagation of Christianity, or to the advancement of education; who is able even to imagine the results? The statistics of self indulgence is the accurate gage of human depravity. By so much does the world come short of even a reasonable and accessible ideal of righteousness. By so much does it subtract from the hope of comfort and development for the toiling masses. By so much does it add to the sum of misery, want, ignorance, vice and wretchedness. By so much does it increase the wide and deep ocean of human suffering. To the statistics of self indulgence, add the cost and waste of militarism. It staggers the imagina-